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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

The British Medical Journal publishes a preliminary report of the work of a number of army medical officers in France. Three of them, Major General Sir J. R. Bradford, Captain E. F. Bashford, and Captain J. A. Wilson, are authorities whose names carry great weight. Working in the hospitals of Etaples they believe that they have isolated the source of infection in trench fever, influenza and nephritis, also that of other diseases including mumps, measles and typhus fever. If the hopes which have been aroused are justified, the discovery may be the greatest in medicine since the days of Lister and Pasteur.

DISINFECTION OF WOUNDS BY ANTISEPTIC VAPOR.—The Paris letter of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* describes a new method of disinfecting wounds by means of a current of gas charged with an antiseptic vapor. The current may be ordinary air charged with an ether vapor to which a volatile antiseptic is added, such as phenol, camphor or oil of geranium. In some cases air mixed with half its volume of oxygen and saturated with other vapor was used. Through an apparatus the medicated ether vapor is brought into contact with the wound surface. The treatment is continuous day and night. The infected wound is usually cleaned up in 24 to 48 hours, even when the infection has resisted the usual methods of treatment.

CANCER OF THE SKIN.—A writer in the *New York Medical Journal* believes that nearly every case of cancer of the skin can be cured permanently. Small lesions can be removed by caustics, roentgen rays, radium or fulguration; larger lesions by the same methods of surgery. Different cases require varying means.

ETHER ANESTHESIA BY RECTUM.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* in a synopsis of an article in a French journal, says that Monod has applied this technic in thirty cases and the results were so fine, he recommends it as a reliable method when conditions indicate this procedure. He never had an accident in the thirty cases, while the security and tranquility of the patient were most propitious for the operation. This method seems to avoid the cardio-pulmonary reflexes, the congestion of the lungs and the nausea. The ether was administered by a nurse beforehand, like an ordinary enema.

SUGAR IN TUBERCULOSIS.—Some of the foreign medical journals describe the administration of sugar by intramuscular injection in the

treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Its usefulness seems to be when the acute stage is over, but profuse expectoration and night sweats continue, with little fever but great debility and emaciation. Small doses of sugar promote secretion, as that of milk in women, a comparatively large amount reduces or corrects secretions. The injection is rather painful and a small amount of cocain is used. A compress dipped in a thick solution of sugar is applied to check superficial or deep hemorrhages.

CAMPBOR IN HEMOPTYSIS.—A Norwegian medical journal reports great benefit from the injection of 3 c.c. of 20 per cent camphorated oil in cases of hemoptysis. The hemorrhage stopped at once with no other measure except in two cases when the limbs were bandaged to expel the blood, as the hemorrhage had been profuse. The same treatment was effective in a case of severe epistaxis; no tampon was used.

COCOA-COLA.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* says it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the unrestricted use of cocoa-cola must be injurious. An analysis declares it to contain from 0.92 to 1.30 grains of caffein to the fluid ounce. It would seem that in the interest of the public health, the indiscriminate sale to children and adults of an alkaloid like caffein in the enticing form of a soft drink, should be deprecated.

DESTRUCTION OF ROACHES.—In a Farmer's Bulletin, No. 648, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, it is stated that the most effectual means of exterminating roaches is by the use of a powder of 50 per cent of sodium fluorid and the same amount of flour or starch. It is used in the same way as other insect powders, forced into crevices, sprinkled around drain pipes, etc.

PROTECTION IN IRRIGATING EYE.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* has a cut of a simple device to protect the clothing when the eye is being irrigated. A half-moon to fit around the eye from the nose to the temple is cut from one end of a piece of adhesive plaster. The lower corners can then be turned up to form a point, or funnel, through which the irrigating fluid is drained away, instead of running down to the ear and neck.